

**APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2004**

**ATTENDANCE:** Evonne Klein, First Selectwoman; Linda Santarella; Dr. Joseph Miceli; Barbara Thorne

**ABSENT:** Robert F. Harrel, Jr.

**STAFF:** John Crary, Town Administrator

**CALL TO ORDER**

The First Selectwoman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT**

First Selectwoman Klein stated that last week she met with members of the Board of Selectmen and Mayors of towns in Southwestern Fairfield County to talk about the Schaghticoke Tribe and their filing for recognition. She said the interesting fact of the entire conversation is that in the State of Connecticut there are twelve tribes seeking recognition. Connecticut State has the most tribes seeking recognition. First Selectwoman Klein said that she would keep everyone up-to-date as things progress.

Ms. Thorne asked if the conversation included the fact that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is being reorganized. First Selectwoman Klein said they talked about it a little bit but that one of the people that had been working on behalf of the Schaghticoke Tribe is now gone. She said they did not talk about the BIA at all. First Selectwoman Klein stated that the Board of Selectmen is interested in sponsoring an information session for the Town similar to one that was given a few years ago.

First Selectwoman Klein said that there was business meeting last week where business owners were invited to attend. She said there was an excellent turnout with about 25 businesses represented. She said the meeting went extremely well. Ms. Thorne stated that she is very concerned with the Public Relations that CL&P is putting on this. She referred to an insert into a CL&P bill showing a colored line depicting the northern alternative route. She said the other lines are practically invisible and it is very misleading. First Selectwoman Klein said that CL&P came back this week and proposed an alternative southern route (a site map was distributed to the Committee). She stated that she had spoken with Mayor Knopp and will be meeting with him. She said that she thought they had a united front about the use of Route 1. First Selectwoman Klein said that she hopes that this is not a route that they will consider. She said she received an e-mail from an angry person in Stamford asking how she could not support this project. She said she responded that the Town of Darien supports the project but does not support the use of the Post Road for the project.

First Selectwoman Klein said that last week she had a First Selectwoman's Night Out and it was very well attended. Some of the issues were sound barriers. She said Andrew McDonald is seeking funding for the sound barriers. She said there was some discussion about the budget, the dam at Holly Pond and the downtown Darien. First Selectwoman Klein said that she is part of a panel that met this past Monday called Darien Coalition to Address at Risk Behavior. Their mission is to provide prevention techniques for schools and parents to deal with adverse behavior. She said that it is a great panel and it received great coverage from Channel 12. First Selectwoman Klein said today she just got back from Sexual Assault and Crisis Center to speak out against sexual violence.

Dr. Miceli said that on Monday night he attended a meeting to discuss tax abatement for the emergency services. The Rules Committee will meet to discuss this in order to decide on a cap.

Ms. Santarella said that she attended an RTM and an F&B meeting. She said they voted not to support the funding for the expansion at Casey Field. She said she felt it was because they needed more information, which she supplied on Friday. The original motion included concerns about parking. After receiving the additional information, the Committee voted unanimously in favor of funding.

Dr. Miceli commented on the issue that was raised of the drainage from the Nature Center going under Casey Field. He said it was made quite clear to the people from the Nature Center that they would not do anything to prevent the Town from developing the park.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2004**

First Selectwoman Klein asked that an Absent Section be added under Attendance and that Robert Harrel, Jr.'s name be listed as absent.

- \*\* DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2004 AS AMENDED.**
- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2004**

- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2004.**
- \*\* DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Crary said that he had nothing to report and that everything is in the packets to the Board members. He said that he would be preparing a written report of all of the different things he is working on.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ELECTION OF ACTING FIRST SELECTWOMAN IN CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR ILLNESS OF FIRST SELECTWOMAN**

First Selectwoman Klein said that she would like to table Item 5a until the next meeting.

- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 5a UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.**
- \*\* DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **DISCUSSION OF TOWN OF DARIEN DUMP POLICIES**

First Selectwoman said that in conversations that she has had with the Board of Finance they have had concerns that the Town is not enforcing the dumping policies. She said she spoke with Bob Steeger about this and he has sent Darren Oustafine to speak regarding this tonight. The representative stated that people are abusing the system beyond belief. He said that the Department of Public Works is asking the Board of Selectmen for input/direction and asking that the Board back them up. There was discussion regarding dumping policies, materials being dumped and frequency of dumping. Reference and discussion was made to Section 22 of the Code of Ordinance. Ms. Santarella suggested that the DPW submit a proposal regarding their intentions and what they think will work to the Board of Selectmen. First Selectwoman Klein said that the ordinances should be enforced for everyone. Mr. Crary recommended forming a Committee and to have the Committee come back to the Board of Selectmen with ideas. First Selectwoman Klein suggested making some materials weighable in order to track who is dumping and what exactly is being dumped.

### **DISCUSSION OF CHANGING THE TIME LIMITS FOR DOWNTOWN PARKING**

Mr. Crary said that there is no backup for this item. First Selectwoman suggested changing the one-hour parking behind the stores in downtown Darien to two hours and the two-hour parking to three hours. Mr. Crary said that this is only for discussion and that the item could be put on the next agenda to be voted on. It was the consensus of the Board to have the vote in early May.

### **DISCUSSION OF LETTER FROM HARRY HARRIS, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RE: NEW AGREEMENT ON RAIL STATIONS AND PARKING LOTS**

First Selectwoman Klein referred to Page 1, Paragraph 5 of a letter of intent she received from Harry Harris, State of Connecticut Department of Transportation dated March 26, 2004. She stated that the State of Connecticut is pleased to extend the Town of Darien's contract for an additional six years. There was discussion regarding the letter. First Selectwoman Klein said that the first sentence in Paragraph 5 is incorrect and that what the Town would have to do is increase parking fees. There was discussion regarding

the last sentence in Paragraph 5 with reference to the right of the State of Connecticut transferring any excess capital funds to any rail improvement project of its choosing and at its sole discretion. There will be further discussion with regard to the language in the letter.

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED WORK ON THE NOROTON HEIGHTS RAIL STATION & LOT**

Mr. Crary said that he had a tour of the Noroton Heights Station and went through a list of the proposed improvements at the train station. He presented a list of items totaling \$840,000, which does not include the price of benches. The price of the benches is \$6,000. He stated that the addition of the canopy on the platform is a big job, well over a million dollars to do the job. The new lighting within the parking lots is also a major job. Mr. Crary said that the bathroom facilities in the railroad station do not meet the requirements of the ADA. The balance of the project is maintenance or repair.

### **AGENDA REVIEW OF UPCOMING ISSUES**

First Selectwoman Klein asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

### **BUDGET TRANSFERS**

#### **PARKS & RECREATION**

- \*\* MS. THORNE MOVED TO TRANSFER FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,500 TO THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT.**
- \*\* MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Crary said that this item was actually in next years budget. He said the Police Department is going to replace all of their automatic external defibrillators. The model they will use will be for adults and children.

- \*\* MS. THORNE MOVED TO TRANSFER FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,500 TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**
- \*\* DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A comment was made that it would be a very nice idea to send a letter to the University of Connecticut congratulating them on winning the men and women's NCAA tournament.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

None.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

First Selectwoman Klein stated that the Board of Finance has not said that the Board of Selectmen need to attend their meeting this Thursday night or next Tuesday night. She said it is at the discretion of the Board members whether they attend.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- \*\* DR. MICELI MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- \*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Board of Selectmen went into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Custis  
Telesco Secretarial Services